

**Camden Select Board  
Minutes of Meeting  
August 30, 2011 – 6:00 pm**

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Martin Cates, Vice Chairperson Morgan Laidlaw, John French, Jr., James Heard (arrived at 6:40 pm), Donald White, and Town Manager Roberta Smith. Also present were members of the press and public.

**ABSENT:** Town Attorney William Kelly

***Contents***

**SELECT BOARD**

**1. Public Input on non-agenda items.**

- a. Board member Morgan Laidlaw thanked the Board Chair, Martin Cates for all his work in the nomination process and in helping with the selection process for the new Town Manager.
- b. John French commended the Town staff, Fire Department, Police Department, Public Works and Steve Pixley, Harbor Master for all their hard work and dedication during Hurricane Irene that occurred last weekend because they deserve the Board's appreciation for such a great job.

**2. Confirmation of appointment of new Town Manager.**

Martin Cates opened the meeting by announcing that Town Manager, Roberta Smith will be retiring in October. He commended all that Roberta has done for the Town of Camden, not only has she implemented many improvements to systems and processes but she has set the bar high as a municipal manager. Mrs. Smith has engaged all her employees, boards, committees and citizens with nothing less than respect, cooperation and efforts that surpass expectations. As a representative of the town, Roberta has earned the respect and cooperation of officials across the state, while being a continual advocate for the Town's needs. Martin also stated as they looked into the transition of a new Town Manager, the Select Board engaged in the process of evaluation of today's needs. They carefully considered over 60 applications, focused ultimately on a more depth review of about 30 applications. As they worked through the applications they were united in thought by choosing to interview 5 candidates. From those five, the choice they made was unanimous.

Prior to announcing the candidate, Martin mentioned some of the qualities that distinguished this person:

- a. A track record of success in community and economic development.
- b. Commitment to citizen involvement in local government.
- c. Collaboration with the business community and surrounding municipalities.
- d. Experience in local governments
- e. A native of Bangor, a graduate of the University of Maine, and a Certified Manager through the International City Management Association.
- f. Started commitment to local government early when upon graduating from college.
- g. This person ran for and won a seat on the Bangor City Council, making her the youngest person elected at that time and the youngest woman ever elected.

- h. This person served four years as Auburn's Assistant City Manager, moving on to City Manager of Auburn for 12 years. In Auburn, she led the successful revitalization of the City's downtown and waterfront area, the development of two industrial parks, development of a business retention and expansion strategy which resulted in expanding the tax base and made Auburn the top job creator in western Maine, and she led the financial management and capital improvement plan which resulted in Auburn's bond rating being upgraded to its highest level in many years.
- i. Currently serving as Assistant City Manager in Portland, Maine, where she has served for the past four years, her areas of responsibilities have included leading economic development, communications, waterfront development, and intergovernmental relations.
- j. Also in Portland, accomplishments have included working with the State Legislature to approve a statewide Jobs Bond package which included \$6.5 million to construct a new pier in Portland Harbor to accommodate the growing cruise ship business in Maine, leading the City's efforts to receive federal funding for public safety staff and equipment, energy conservation and sewer projects, and developing a marketing plan that resulted in doubling the number of cruise ships calling on Portland.

Martin Cates explained that on behalf of the Select Board, he was proud to introduce the woman they have chosen to continue the tradition of strong municipal leadership in the Town of Camden, Patricia Finnigan.

Patricia Finnegan came forward and thanked the Board for their unanimous vote and stated she is looking forward to becoming the new Manager for the Town of Camden. She stated she feels very blessed to be part of a long line of town managers who have served the community very well. The Town of Camden has wonderful assets both natural from the mountains and the waterfront and most of all the people that have made it the community that it is. She is looking forward to working with everyone and was happy to be able to meet some of the staff and citizens.

*Morgan Laidlaw made a motion to approve the contract and approve Patricia Finnigan as the new Town Manager of Camden. Don White seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 4-0-0 vote.*

3. **Consideration of options for parking areas at Laite Beach.** Roberta explained included in the Select Board packet was a letter from Gartley & Dorsky relative to the pavers. The Board has been considering ways to stabilize the area in the park where visitors park on the grass. One option discussed was grass pavers. Gartley & Dorsky has since discovered a couple of places where other places have had them installed where there is a lot of traffic and a lot of parking and the grass doesn't get a chance to stabilize. Therefore, they are recommending that the town go with Option 2 which is for asphalt pavers. Manager Smith stated she felt Alternate 1 for this was the best option because there is tremendous amount of drainage that flows down the park.

She stated Alternate 1 includes making improvements to two areas historically used for overflow parking and the result will be 10 clearly marked parking spaces. The 10 spaces consist of 7, ninety degree spaces on the north side and 3 parallel spaces on the south side of the park. Gartley & Dorsky felt that these spaces are needed and Alternate 1 should be accepted as part of the contract.

Board member French stated it would be a shame to lose the 30 feet of lawn because people have been parking there in the past, which has never been an issue and the lawn would be a better control for erosion where it comes down off Sea Street then paving. Roberta explained it's the ditch and Jeff Kuller

can speak more to that question because he was present at the site meeting to go over the plans with the Board.

Jeff Kuller explained the proposal would be for three parallel parking spaces to the right hand side and 7 parking spaces over on the grassy side. He also stated that when the road to the park is repaved and regarded, the ditch will disappear and as a result that will become preferred parking.

Board member French stated this park is mainly used by young children and the grassy section is an area where you see children playing a lot and it would be a shame to lose that area. John suggested putting a French drain in and leaving the grass because it's not killing the grass to park on it. Jeff Kuller stated once the road is improved and the ditch is eliminated it will stop people from parking there. French stated it would be a shame to take this part of the park and turn it into blacktop. Jeff Kuller explained that this seems to be the best option and Gartley & Dorsky have reviewed and engineered it and this is their recommendation.

Manager Smith explained the purpose of this design was to improve the safety of the playground and if you direct vehicles to the outside perimeter to certain parking spaces it would leave the center park much safer for children that are running around playing. Part of the concerns that were expressed by the surrounding neighbors was the congested parking on the street and by creating convenient paved parking spaces; it helps control where you don't want people to park.

*Morgan Laidlaw made a motion to approve Alternate 1 for Asphalt Option 2 for the Laite Beach Improvement Project for \$10,100, for a total bid of \$117,000 to Jake Barbour, Inc. Martin Cates seconded this motion. The motion failed on a 2-2-0 vote. (French & White opposed)*

John French recommended the parking spaces on the right hand side, where the three parallel parking spots exist now, be turned into four or five parking.

*John French made a motion to get a price from Jake Barbour, Inc for paving only 3 spaces and to not pave the 7 spaces to the left hand side. Don White seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 3-1-0 vote. (Cates opposed)*

#### **4. Approval of funding for the painting of the Light House Tower at Curtis Island.**

*John French made a motion to approve the withdrawal of \$6,000 from the Curtis Island Light House Reserve Fund and to designate \$2,950 from the FY11 Contingency carryover funds to paint the Curtis Island Light House Tower as proposed by Steve Caron Painting. Don White seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 4-0-0 vote.*

#### **5. Approval of FY11 Carry forwards.**

*John French made a motion to approve the FY11 Carry forward funds as recommended. Morgan Laidlaw seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote. (James Heard joined the Board at 6:40 and voted)*

#### **6. Approval of application of Taxicab Operator's Licenses for Mary Jane Timmons and Jeremy Wadsworth.** Chief Gagne has reviewed and approved both applications.

*Morgan Laidlaw made a motion to approve Taxicab Operator's Licenses for Mary Jane Timmons and Jeremy Wadsworth. Don White seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.*

**7. Executive Session: Personnel matter 1 MRSA section 405(6)A.**

*The Board came out of executive session at 7:30pm.*

**BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

**8. Consideration of the following documents to establish the annual tax commitment: Municipal Tax Rate Calculation Form, Certificate of Assessment to Municipal Treasurer, Assessor's Certification of Assessment, and the County Assessors Return.**

Wesley Robinson, Assessors' Agent reported to the Board that the Town must raise \$14,730,918.00 from local property taxes for the 2011-2012 tax years, a 1.36% DECREASE over last year. Based on the proposed 2011-2012 assessment, the Board must select a tax rate of between 0.01330 and 0.01396 mils to raise these funds, depending on the amount of overlay that the Board wishes to retain. Below is a summary of calculations for several possible rates and mil rates that Mr. Robinson provided for the Board's consideration.

| <b>Tax Rate</b> | <b>% Change</b> | <b>Overlay</b> | <b>Tax Commitment</b> | <b>Tax on<br/>\$250,000 home</b> |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 0.01344         | -0.22%          | \$160,526.08   | 14,815,675.12         | \$3,360.00 (\$7.50 Decrease)     |
| 0.01345         | -0.15%          | \$171,606.02   | 14,826,698.69         | \$3,362.50 (\$5.00 Decrease)     |
| 0.01346         | -0.07%          | \$182,685.96   | 14,837,722.26         | \$3365.00 (\$2.50 Decrease)      |
| 0.01347         | 0%              | \$193,765.91   | 14,848,745.83         | \$3367.50 (No Change)            |
| 0.01348         | +0.07%          | \$204,845.85   | 14,859,769.39         | \$3370.00 (\$2.50 Increase)      |
| 0.01350         | +0.22%          | \$227,005.74   | 14,881,545.90         | \$3375.00 (\$7.50 Increase)      |
| 0.01355         | +0.89%          | \$282,405.46   | 14,936,934.37         | \$3387.50 (\$20.00 Increase)     |

*John French made a motion to set the FY12 Tax Rate at \$13.46 with an overlay of \$182,685.96. Morgan Laidlaw seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.*

*John French made a motion to adjourn at 8:10pm. Morgan Laidlaw seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.*

Respectfully Submitted,

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Recording Secretary  
Melissa A. Geary